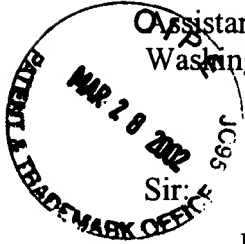


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Hawkins  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Andreas Kappel et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/365,208  
Filed: July 30, 1999  
Title: MULTILAYER PIEZOACTUATOR AND METHOD FOR  
MANUFACTURING SAME  
Art Unit: 2834  
Examiner: P. Medley  
Docket No.: 112740-004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231



AMENDMENT

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In response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2001, Applicants respectfully respond as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- C1
1. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric multilayer actuator of hexagonal cross-sectional geometry, comprising:
- at least two individual piezoelectric layers, each piezoelectric layer formed as only one single element of hexagonal cross-sectional geometry;
  - at least two electrodes, wherein the electrodes are alternately layered with the piezoelectric layers; and
  - a housing of circular cross-section.

Please add new claims 18 and 19 as follows:

- C2
18. (New) A piezoelectric multilayer actuator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hexagonal cross-sectional geometry of each single element is maximized within the housing.
19. (New) A piezoelectric multilayer actuator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hexagonal cross-sectional geometry of each single element occupies an area which is at least 80% of an area of the circular cross-sectional geometry of the housing.